

**MAINE
PRINCIPALS'
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TO: Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Maine Principals' Association Legislative Committee
RE: In Support of LD 979: An Act to Expand Maine's School-based Health Centers
DATE: April 6, 2021

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Dr. Holly Couturier and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Principals' Association – Professional Division. We represent more than 800 PreK-12 principals and assistant principals of public and private schools in Maine.

The MPA Legislative Committee fully supports LD 979. Currently, there are schools throughout the state that have full health centers. The students who attend these schools have access to full-time health resources that other schools do not have. These students have access to better healthcare while at school than those students who attend a school without a health center. We strongly encourage the bill to include students from low-income families in addition to those in schools with existing health disparities based on race, ethnicity, or tribal status. This will serve most, if not all, of the students who have the largest health issues in the state.

The MPA strongly urges the Committee to vote Ought To Pass on LD 979.